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Message Text

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46
ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PPT-02 SCA-01 CPR-02 RSC-01 /032 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:HGILMORE/JL
APPROVED BY EUR/EE:RBHOUSTON,JR.
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P R 021904Z JUL 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, YO
SUBJECT: VISAS FOR DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PERSONNEL

REF: STATE 136287; BELGRADE 3191

1. YUGOSLAV COUNSELOR STRBAC CALLED ON ACTING DIRECTOR EUR/EE (HOUSTON) JULY 1 TO CONVEY GOY'S ACCEPTANCE AND CLARIFY GOY'S UNDERSTANDING OF GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT PROPOSED IN REFTEL. GOY UNDERSTANDS THAT: (A) WHEN REQUESTING VISAS FOR PERSONS ASSIGNED TO US DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR ESTABLISHMENTS IN YUGOSLAVIA, US SIDE WILL NOT RPT NOT INDICATE WHAT POSITIONS THEY ARE ASSUMING OR WHOM THEY ARE REPLACING; (B) THE US HAS NO PRESENT PLAN TO INCREASE ITS STAFFS IN YUGOSLAVIA, BUT WHEN IT DOES, THE US WILL INFORM GOY SO THAT BOTH SIDES CAN DISCUSS ANY DIFFICULTIES THIS MIGHT PRESENT. STRBAC ALSO SAID YUGOSLAVS READY INFORM THE US WHEN THEY MAKING ANY PERMANENT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF OFFICIAL YUGOSLAV PERSONNEL IN US.

2. USG, SAID HOUSTON, BELIEVES GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE GOOD RELATIONS WE MAINTAIN WITH YUGOSLAVIA. IT WILL PERMIT REPLACEMENT PROCESS TO PROCEED SMOOTHLY WHILE RECOGNIZING GOY'S CONCERN ABOUT
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SIZE OF VERY LARGE FOREIGN MISSIONS. WHILE US AGREES TO

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DISCUSS ANY SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN STAFF OF ITS ESTABLISH-

MENTS IN YUGOSLAVIA, US DOES NOT ACCEPT CONCEPT OF PERSONNEL CEILING.

3. STRBAC INDICATED HE WAS CONCERNED BY LACK OF PRECISION OF ADJECTIVE "SIGNIFICANT". HOUSTON EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD USED THIS WORD TO ALLOW FOR TEMPORARY FLUCTUATIONS IN THE SIZE OF US ESTABLISHMENTS AS A RESULT OF GAPS, OVERLAPS AND TDY ASSIGNMENTS.

4. HOUSTON RECOMMENDED THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF IS AGREEMENT REST WITH EMBASSY BELGRADE AND FSFA. HE SUGGESTED THAT FSFA AND EMBASSY OFFICIALS MEET AT EARLY DATE TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF IMPLEMENTATION, INCLUDING QUESTION OF GAPS, OVERLAPS AND TDY ASSIGNMENTS. HE NOTED EMBASSY BELGRADE IN BEST POSITION TO KNOW ABOUT THESE MATTERS AS WELL AS ABOUT PLANS TO GO THROUGH THE COMPLICATED INTERNAL US PROCEDURES NEEDED TO SECURE PERMISSION FOR A PERMANENT INCREASE IN US PERSONNEL OVERSEAS.

5. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION STRBAC CLAIMED THAT PREVIOUS GOY PRACTICE OF ASKING WHOM NEWLY-ASSIGNED US PERSONNEL WOULD REPLACE WAS NOT DISCRIMINATORY BECAUSE IT DID NOT APPLY ONLY TO US. AFTER OBSERVING THAT ISSUE OF "DISCRIMINATION" WAS NOT THE BASIC POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT, HOUSTON NOTED THAT INQUIRIES MADE BY EMBASSY BELGRADE REVEALED THAT NOT ALL FOREIGN MISSIONS IN YUGOSLAVIA FURNISHED THIS INFORMATION.

6. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT EXISTING AGREMENT PROCEDURES AFFECTING PERSONNEL CATEGORIES (E.G. MILITARY ATTACHES) WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY GENTLEMENS AGREEMENT.

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